REMARKS

Since Applicants refer to certain lines of the claims in the arguments below, the full set of the pending claims is reproduced in the claims section of this response for the convenience of the Examiner.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that in Claim 1, the feature "wherein any modifications of the other data structures in the second intermediate form are independent of the custom data type elements" is not supported by the specification as filed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above feature is supported by the specification as filed for at least the following reasons.

Paragraph [0052] of the specification as filed explains that a common data storage model is the intermediate form of data that is used for passing enterprise information from one computerized system to another (e.g., from a source to a target system). Further, paragraph [0052] states that "[s]uch a common data storage model is herein referred to as a common object data model or an MAIS data model." One subset of the MAIS or common object data model is the "Custom" common object (see paragraph [0053], "One aspect of the common object data model is the design and utilization of 'Custom' common objects.").

Paragraph [0055] of the specification explains the use of the MAIS data model as well as the role of Custom common objects within the MAIS data model. Paragraph [0055] states that "[t]he MAIS data model provides general representations of most data objects used in day-to-day business (e.g. Sales Orders, Customer records, Product information, etc.). Due to the uniqueness of

each business in the global economy, the MAIS data model, without more, usually does not meet every need of all customers. Thus, Custom common objects are provided to MAIS clients for holding, processing, and transporting the customer's unique information using the MAIS product."

In other words, the Custom common objects are a subset of the MAIS data model and the Custom common objects are specifically used for capturing the customer's unique information rather than modifying the rest of the common objects in the MAIS data model.

Further, paragraph [0056] on page 6 of the specification as filed explains that one of the problems "with customer-defined data models in software applications is the adverse impact on the ability to upgrade the software when new releases come out." Paragraph [0056] also explains that "[t]he design of custom common objects in custom.xsd used in MAIS solves the problem of customized data models impeding the upgrades of MAIS. Customers can customize the data model using custom.xsd, and still be able to accept updates and upgrades of the MAIS data model. This is possible because the custom.xsd will contain all customer-specific additions to the data model, and all of the other MAIS common objects simply refer to the custom.xsd to get the customer-specific data structures. In short, the core MAIS data model typically need **not be modified** by the customer because all data structure additions are made in the custom.xsd" (emphasis added). In other words, when the core MAIS data model is modified as in an upgrade, such a modification is independent of the Custom common object model or custom.xsd. As a result, the customer can accept an upgraded version of the MAIS model without losing any customer-

specific data that is in the custom.xsd. Conversely, any modifications or additions of customer-specific information does not impact the core MAIS model.

Independent Claim 12 includes a similar feature, which is similarly supported by the application as filed. For at least the reasons given above, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the § 112 First Paragraph rejections of Claims 1-20.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that in Claim 1, line 13 "the other data structures" lack sufficient antecedent basis.

Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the phrase, "that can be referenced by other data structures" at line 11 of Claim 1. The phrase, "that can be referenced by other data structures", at line 11 of Claim 1, provides sufficient antecedent basis for "the other data structures" at line 13 of Claim 1. Similarly, in independent Claim 12, the phrase, "that can be referenced by other data structures" at line 13 of Claim 12, provides sufficient antecedent basis for "the other data structures" at line 15 of Claim 12.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the § 112 Second Paragraph rejections of Claims 1-20.
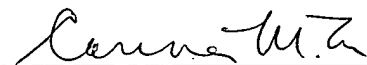
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 838-4311.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due to Applicants' Deposit Account No. 50-2207.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: <u>April 3, 2006</u>

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